

## Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ( ISO ) W

----- 093904

R 081026Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2022

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG NKP

CDR JCRC NKP

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0117

D/PW FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: AMCIT CHARLES M. DEAN

REF: VIENTIANE 0060

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE MENTIONED IN PARA TWO REFTEL WHICH WE HAVE SENT TODAY, JANUARY 8, IN FORM OF A LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

EXCELLENCY,  
WITH REFERENCE TO OUR SEVERAL PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS REGARDING THE MISSING AMERICAN CITIZEN CHARLES DEAN AND HIS AUSTRALIAN COMPANION NEIL SHARMAN, I HAVE THE HONOR TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH I BELIEVE SHOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE  
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PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION IN LOCATING THESE TWO

YOUNG MEN AND ACHIEVING THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY APPROPRIATE LAO AUTHORITIES, WHO--IN THE PROCESS OF DEBRIEFING THE INDIVIDUALS INDICATED--DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN.

A. MR. CHANHTHALANG, A FORMER FAR SOLDIER, WAS CAPTURED BY SOLDIERS OF THE NEO LAO HAK SAT IN 1970 AND ASSIGNED TO AN ENGINEER UNIT IN THE KHAM KEUT AREA. HE ESCAPED IN EARLY DECEMBER 1974 AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER RETURNED TO FAR CONTROL. HE TOLD FAR OFFICIALS THAT HE HAD OBSERVED TWO CAUCASIAN PRISONERS ON FIVE OCCASIONS DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 10 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1974. HE WITNESSED THE INTERROGATION OF THE TWO PRISONERS BY THONG SAI, THE COMMANDER OF THE LOCAL NEO LAO HAK SAT POLICE UNIT ON OCTOBER 10 AND HEARD THE PRISONERS STATE THAT ONE WAS AN AMERICAN AND THE OTHER AN AUSTRALIAN.

B. MR. BOUNLAI, A MERCHANT FROM THAKHEK, WAS ARRESTED BY NEO LAO HAK SAT OFFICIALS AT BAN BONENG ON AUGUST 5 AND TAKEN TO KHAM KEUT. HE ESCAPED ON NOVEMBER 14, 1974, AND RETURNED TO FAR CONTROL ON NOVEMBER 17, 1974. HE RELATED THE FOLLOWING DETAILS TO LAO OFFICIALS: MR. BOUNLAI WITNESSED THE ARRIVAL OF TWO CAUCASIAN PRISONERS ON SEPTEMBER 10 AND WAS CONFINED TO THE SAME HOUSE AS THE TWO PRISONERS DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 10 TO NOVEMBER 10. DURING HIS PERIOD OF CONFINEMENT, MR. BOUNLAI WAS ABLE TO CONVERSE WITH THE TWO FOREIGNERS AND HE DETERMINED THAT ONE WAS AN AMERICAN AND THE OTHER AN AUSTRALIAN. THE TWO MEN RELATED THE DETAILS OF THEIR VISITS TO SEVEN COUNTRIES AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO LUANG PRABANG, VIENTIANE AND PAKSANE. MR. BOUNLAI HEARD THONG SAI, THE NEO LAK HAK SAT POLICE CHIEF AT THE CAMP, SAY THAT THE TWO FOREIGNERS WERE BEING HELD PENDING THE RECEIPT OF ORDERS FROM SAM NEUA FOR THEIR RELEASE. DURING THE COURSE OF EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS, MR. BOUNLAI WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT THE NAMES OF THE AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN WERE DEAN AND SHARMAN.

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ( ISO ) W

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R 081026Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2023  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
SECDEF WASHDC  
CINCPAC  
COMUSSAG NKP  
CDR JCRC NKP

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D/PW FOR SIEVERTS

C. SENIOR CORPORAL TANH, FIRST PLATOON, SECOND COMPANY, BV-51 FAR, WAS CAPTURED BY NEO LAO HAK SAT SOLDIERS ON JULY 24, 1974, AND ESCAPED ON NOVEMBER 14, 1974. HE RETURNED TO HIS MILITARY ORGANIZATION, BV-51, ON NOVEMBER 17, 1974. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE TOLD LAO OFFICIALS THAT HE HAD BEEN DETAINED AT BAN THONG LAM FROM JULY 24 UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER 1974. IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, HE WAS JOINED BY TWO WHITE MALES, ACCOMPANIED BY NEO LAO HAK SAT GUARDS, AND ALL THREE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED TO KHAM KEUT ON SEPTEMBER 10. THE NEO LAO HAK SAT GUARDS TOLD CORPORAL TANH THAT THE TWO PRISONERS WERE AMERICANS; HOWEVER, HE WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE, IN THE COURSE OF MANY CONVERSATIONS, THAT ONE MAN WAS AN AMERICAN AND THE OTHER WAS AN AUSTRALIAN. THEIR NAMES WERE CHARLES DEAN AND NEIL SHARMAN. CHARLES DEAN TOLD CORPORAL TANH THAT HE HAD ENTERED LAOS AT BAN HOUEI SAI AND THEN VISITED LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE, AND THAT HE AND SHARMAN PLANNED TO STOP AT THAKHEK PRIOR TO CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY TO BANGKOK. CHARLES DEAN STATED THAT THE TWO TRAVELERS DEPARTED VIENTIANE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR THAKHEK BUT THEIR BOAT WAS STOPPED BY NEO LAO HAK  
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SAT OFFICIALS AT PAK NAM KADING TAY, WHERE THE OFFICIALS STAMPED THEIR PASSPORTS AND PERMITTED THE TWO TRAVELERS TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY. WHEN THE BOAT STOPPED AT THE NEO LAO HAK SAT CHECKPOINT FURTHER SOUTH, DEAN AND SHARMAN WERE ARRESTED. CORPORAL TANH RETURNED TO MILITARY CONTROL ON NOVEMBER 17, 1974. IN HIS POSSESSION WERE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TWO MEN WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN DETAINED. THE PHOTOGRAPH OF CHARLES DEAN HAD THE FOLLOWING NOTATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE: "CHARLES DEAN, 1035 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, USA."

D. AN UNIDENTIFIED BOATMAN WAS APPROACHED ON SEPTEMBER 5 BY TWO WHITE MALE FOREIGNERS FOR TRANSPORTATION SOUTH. THE BOAT WAS STOPPED AT THE NEO LAO HAK SAT CHECKPOINT AT PAK HIN BOUN,

WHERE THE TWO CAUCASIANS WERE ARRESTED BY DIRECTION OF NAI BOUN MEE, THE LOCAL NEO LAO HAK SAT LEADER. THE BOATMAN WAS PERMITTED TO CONTINUE HIS TRIP SOUTH TO THAKHEK.

E. WE HAVE BEEN FURTHER INFORMED BY THE LAO AUTHORITIES ON JANUARY 4, 1975, THAT MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN WERE MOVED FROM KHAM KEUT, THROUGH BAN NALIANG, NEAR BAN LAK XAO, ALLEGEDLY ENROUTE TO SAM NEUA ON DECEMBER 14-15, 1974. THEIR MOVEMENT THROUGH BAN NALIANG WAS WITNESSED BY FOUR PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN CONFINED AT BAN NALIANG BUT ESCAPED ON DECEMBER 15, 1974, AND PROVIDED THE FOREGOING INFORMATION TO FAR OFFICIALS.

THE FOREGOING DETAILS CLEARLY ESTABLISH THE PRESENCE OF CHARLES DEAN AND NEIL SHARMAN IN THE KHAM KEUT AREA DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 10 TO NOVEMBER 30 AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENT THROUGH BAN NALIANG ON THE DATES INDICATED. I TRUST THAT THESE FACTS RELATING TO THEIR TRAVELS, APPREHENSION, AND SUBSEQUENT INCARCERATION SHOULD HELP IN EFFECTING THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE) END TEXT

3. PLEASE PASS FOREGOING TO HOWARD DEAN.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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